Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs

Annual Report

November 2002

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House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

103-02658/

Hon. Murray Scott
Speaker
House of Assembly
Province House
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, I am pleased to submit the 2001 / 2002 Report of the Committee for the Second Session of the Fifty-Eighth General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

William Langille, MLA
(Colchester North)
Chairman
Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs

Halifax, Nova Scotia
2002

Printed on paper that contains recycled fibre

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— Correspondence to government regarding the Juno Beach Centre Association

Foreword

Although there is no written mandate of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, the report was written with the understanding that the committee be established for the purpose of considering matters pertaining to Veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces and the Royal Canadian Legion.

The report is written under individual topics outlining the concerns and issues brought forth from each group /organization.

October 25, 2001

WITNESS

Organizational Meeting

Committee Motion

During this meeting of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, a motion was made by an Honourable Member and passed by the Standing Committee to state,

> " The Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs seek to provide a link-up on the Nova Scotia Government Website between the public and the Canadian Armed Forces so that the general public can send emails to the Canadian Armed Forces Personnel serving in Afghanistan." [1]

As of October 2001 the general public can now send emails to the Canadian Armed Forces Personnel participating in the Afghanistan efforts at the following address: http://www.gov.ns.ca

1. News release announcing the email link to Canadian Armed Forces Personnel on the Nova Scotia Government Website. (See appendix)

November 10, 2001

WITNESS

Post Card of Thanks Program / Press Conference

During the months of October / November the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs becomes actively involved in sponsoring the annual Post Card of Thanks Program that, as of November 2001 was the beginning of the program's fourth year.

This program - endorsed by the Royal Canadian Legion - is designed to help grade 6 students across Nova Scotia acquire a personal view on the concept of remembrance. Each child is provided with a stamp, a sponsor sticker and a post card and is encouraged to write a personal note of appreciation to Nova Scotia veterans. And for the first time in the four year history of the program, the students are encouraged to send messages to current serving Canadian Forces Personnel. This is done in a classroom setting, following a lesson plan that is provided to the teacher. The names and addresses of veterans are supplied to the local schools in the area by the Royal Canadian Legion.

On November 10, 2001 the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs held a press conference[2] announcing the 4th annual Post Card of Thanks Program of which the sponsors of the program were invited to say a few words on the historical and educational value of the program. This years' sponsors were: Veterans Affairs Canada; Nova Scotia Teachers Union and PanCanadian Energy.

2. Materials contained in conference kit contained:
Post Card of Thanks Program outline;
Chairman's Speech;
Copies of the House motions for the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs and for the sponsors of the program.
Copy of the Press Release

November 15, 2001

WITNESSES

Royal Canadian Legion
Nova Scotia / Nunavut Command
Mr. Fred Mombourquette - President
Mr. Victor Barnes - 1st Vice President
Mr. Clarence Dawe - Immediate Past President
Mr. Jack Hatcher - Honorary Treasurer
Mr. Steve Wessel - Public Relations, Nova Scotia Command

Background

The Royal Canadian Legion has outlined several issues of concerns to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs. These concerns and issues are outlined in subheadings that coincide with the presentations of the Legion members.

Considering the number of volunteers in the Royal Canadian Legion who serve the needs of aging veterans, family members and community seniors, it is small wonder that the Legion is perceived by many to be a leading advocate for the service provider to aging Nova Scotians. Some of the issues affecting seniors that have been brought to the attention of the Legion are:

Falls Prevention Initiative

Falling is a serious health problem among the elderly. Approximately 30 per cent of people over 65 years of age fall each year. The report "Taking Steps to Prevent Falling in Nova Scotia" reports that one out of every three older Nova Scotians is likely to fall this year and that more than half will fall again. The cost of treating injuries related to falls in Nova Scotia is over $16 million, and the unintentional injuries rank as the sixth leading cause of death among people over the age of 65.

With funding from Health Canada and Veterans Affairs Canada, the Nova Scotia Command of the Royal Canadian Legion, Community Links and the Family Care Givers Association brought together a range of organizations involved with senior support and care to develop a strategy to reduce falling among the elderly. The proposal for a second phase of funding for this initiative has been submitted and, if funded, will see the development of community and regional strategies.

Falls will only be prevented with a multi-pronged approach that includes addressing both environmental and physical reasons for falls. There is the need to look at factors such as lighting, clutter, handrails, and scatter rugs. It is clear that service providers in the home will be invaluable in identifying these concerns and recommending corrective action. VON Canada, Nova Scotia Branch, has been invited to be a partner in the second phase of this initiative. There is also a need to address changes in sleep patterns, a reduction in muscle strength, and reduced flexibility amongst the elderly in order to reduce falls. Exercise programs designed for the elderly are most beneficial in this respect.

A number of specially-designed exercise programs do exist in Nova Scotia, but they are not generally accessible nor is funding available to allow for their expansion.

Medications also cause side effects, such as dizziness or drowsiness, that often results in falls. While these concerns can be addressed in part by nurses, family physicians and pharmacists, it often takes a geriatrician to make recommendations regarding appropriate changes in medication. Physicians with this specialization are very rare in Nova Scotia and many areas have no access to a geriatrician. For seniors who are addicted to medications, there are no appropriate addiction services in the province designed to meet the special needs of the older population.

The community must also address fall prevention. Outdoor lighting is important, as is the installation of handrails. Uneven walking surfaces frequently cause falls, and snow and ice clearance is crucial. The Legion recognizes that the reduction of falls in Nova Scotia will require that the partner organizations work in collaboration with a variety of departments, both municipal and provincial. This may involve the development of, or changes to, government policy. It may also involve a commitment of funds. Veterans Affairs Canada has committed $10 million to the reduction of falls across the country. In Nova Scotia VAC will be spending $150,000. The Legion challenges the Government of Nova Scotia to match this expenditure as this important project can only result in an improvement in the quality of life of seniors and will eventually reduce the cost to the health care system.

Single Entry Access Program

This will be of significant benefit to older Nova Scotians and their families, however, some concerns regarding this program is the fact that with those who are most ill become the priority for admission to long-term care. The Legion recognizes that the level of care will increase proportionately, and are hopeful that this increased burden on institutional care providers will be acknowledged with an increase in per diems which will allow facilities to staff appropriately. Second is community-based services not being included in the assessment process. For example,

> "If a person is assessed as needing Meals on Wheels, a referral will be made. However, because Meals on Wheels is not being included as part of the SEA planning process, the program may or may not prioritize the referred client. The same will be true of adult day services, volunteer visiting, etc."[3]

The Legion believes that the inclusion of community-based services is crucial to the success of this initiative.

Adult Day Services

Local branches of the Legion are still making contributions to keep the doors of adult day programs open. The Legion has, as in the past, made a strong recommendation that this valuable service be included in the continuum of care and funded appropriately.

Introduction of the Rural and Semi-Rural Transportation Program

This is making a significant difference in the lives of rural seniors, including veterans. The Legion also commends the government for allowing the communities to develop their own strategies for delivering this service. They have found that the community development model is one of the best ways to ensure community support of a program.

Palliative Care Initiatives

One of the projects the Legion has worked on in 2001 is the proposal of a free-standing hospice in Kings County. The Minister of Health struck a committee to submit a proposal regarding the recommended commitment from the Department of Health toward the hospice. The Legion is hopeful that the department will find the funding required for the operating cost of the hospice.

Committee Motion

During the meeting the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs had made a motion stating,

> "That the Minister of Health respond to the following issues: Falls Prevention Initiative, Single Entry Access Program, Adult Day Services, Rural and Semi-Rural Transportation Program and Palliative Care Initiatives as outlined by the presenter in the Hansard transcript." [4]

Veterans License Plate

When traveling on Nova Scotia highways there is no clear way of recognizing Nova Scotia veterans or their service to the country. Some veterans have chosen, of their own accord, to place Royal Canadian Legion or regimental stickers in rear windows or use a commercially produced from license place to denote their service to the province and to Canada. Similarly, with the constant changes in the Royal Canadian Legion Membership categories, not all Legion members are veterans, so the recognition of a Legion crest does not necessarily mean veteran in these present times.

The Province of Nova Scotia has made available to volunteer firefighters and search and rescue personnel a special plate, setting them apart from the ordinary. These plates serve a specific need and are provide to qualified individuals at no cost in recognition of the service they provide to fellow Nova Scotians. Other special plates such as camper plates, commercial and handicapped are also available, but at a specific cost to the individuals.

The voicing or visualization of patriotism in Canada has always taken a back seat to that of our neighbors to the south. To this date it is unknown if any other province in Canada has taken the initiative to recognize veterans in this manner, although many states have had veterans' plates of varying types available to their citizens for years.

The provision of free plates to veterans would be a nice gesture, but unfortunately not economically feasible. However the availability of a specially designed plate at the normal cost for the veteran's vehicle would not incur any additional cost to the province, once the initial artwork was completed.

The scenario to replace the current alphanumeric plate would be for a veteran to make application to the Registry of Motor Vehicles on their approved form and, upon showing proof of service and/ or eligibility, the new style of plate would be issued upon the expiry of the existing plate tag.

Members of Nova Scotia / Nunavut Command have agreed to adopt this as a very viable veterans' project for the Royal Canadian Legion, and that the definition of a veteran be that as adopted by the Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Convention being,

> "A veteran is any person who is serving or who has honorably served in the Armed Forces of Canada, the Commonwealth or its wartime allies; or who has served in the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command during wartime." [5]

That definition was relayed to Veterans Affairs Canada for their consideration and the intent of the Legions's initiative to recognize all those who have served has been approved, and the Legion will have an approved federal government definition soon.

In efforts to publicize the role Canadians have played in past world conflicts and in peacekeeping mission around the world, past and present, this would be an excellent avenue on which the Royal Canadian Legion, Nova Scotia / Nunavut Command, in partnership with the Province of Nova Scotia, can strive to take a lead.

Committee Motion

The Standing Committee made the following motion to the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Affairs regarding the proposal by the Royal Canadian Legion to offer Nova Scotia Veterans their own unique licence plate.

> "To request that the Minister of service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations initiate a follow-up with the Royal Canadian Legion, Nova Scotia Command with regard to the Legion's proposal." [6]

Video Lottery Terminals in Legion Branches

To clarify the Legions' share of the take from VLTs. The Lottery Commission keeps insinuating that the Legions' receive 21.4 per cent of the take and the government receives 79 per cent. However, when factoring in what the Legions' have to pay out for maintenance and upkeep of the machines, etc. their actual share of the take amounts to 10 per cent.

Another part of the problem pertains to the Lottery Commission and another cut that is made into the revenues that the Legion branches receive. Looking at the number of break-open tickets from the old system compared to the new system, the Legions lose 50 tickets in a batch, and the revenues are reduced by $25 dollars. The cost is the same for the tickets, costing $200, but the prize payouts are dropped and the net return is down which results in the Legions' profit margin dropping by 19.16 per cent.

Witness Suggestion

The Legion wishes to make it known to the government that in future any discussion pertaining to the VLTs or other lotteries that affect the Legions, that the Legions be brought into it before any decisions are made.

Committee Motion

The Committee made the following motion regarding the VLT issue as presented by the Royal Canadian Legion.

> "Request the Finance Minister to provide the Standing Committee with an explanation of what had been done to date regarding the issue of VLT machines in Legions across this province and that the Committee be brought up to date as to where that stands right now." [7]

Provincial Fire Marshal's Office

Due to the fact that their branches hold bingos and serve meals for functions, Legions have come under the scrutiny of the Fire Marshal and the Building Inspector Offices for annual inspections. In some cases these offices have approached branches with large lists of repairs that they state will be required prior to a new licence being issued for that branch to continue its operation.

Unfortunately, in some cases, this has placed a very large burden on the branches and has required some to approach local financial institutions to borrow sufficient funds to accomplish the repairs as directed. This has resulted in branches having to borrow anywhere from $10,000 to $250,000. Some branches are now feeling the crunch with these additional debts and are on the verge of being forced to close their doors. If the inspector from either office had informed the branches of the necessary changes to the building and provided them with sufficient time to complete the required repairs as per the Building and Fire Codes, these branches would not be in the position of having to close their doors.

The branches do not have the funds to complete these repairs and cannot figure out why, all of a sudden, they are being directed to complete such large repairs in so short a time.

Witnesses Suggestion

The Legion would like to suggest that the Inspector's Office provide the branches with a list of repairs in order of priority of completion and that the branches be given sufficient time to complete the repairs annually. It must be clearly understood by all parties that these repairs could take up to five years or more to complete. However, with the Inspector and the branches working closely together the repairs could be completed in accordance with the safety and security regulations and in order of priority.

Committee Motion

As a result of this presentation the Standing Committee has passed a motion that,

> "The Fire Marshal meet with the Royal Canadian Legion Nova Scotia / Nunavut Command to discuss the issues herein and forward a response to the Standing Committee of the results of that meeting."[8]

This motion resulted from the presentation of the Legion concerning the Building and Fire Marshal's Codes in the Legions across the Province and the time-lines in bringing these building up to code.

Matters of Discussion

Although there were a number of issues discussed throughout the meeting, outlined below are the more common matters that were discussed by the committee.

— Commitment of VAC Funding. Veterans Affairs Canada have committed $150,000 to the Falls Initiative Project in Nova Scotia. This funding is for a three-stage program and is not used for any other projects. It is to be used for study purposes in the Falls Initiative Program for seniors. Once that funding is gone, that is the end which is why the Legion is asking the government to get involved in this program; ultimately it is really going to save the province a lot of money on health care costs for seniors.

— Palliative Care / Free-Standing Hospices. If a person is in need of palliative care and is admitted to a hospital, it costs the government $1,200 a day for that person while they are in the hospital. If they go into the hospice it costs $400 a day. The Legion and its partners will build and equip the hospice facility, but hope the government will fund the $400 a day that is to be required for the operational costs of the hospices.

— Veterans Licence Plates - Cost to Government. The cost of the production of a die and the design of the artwork would be a relatively minimal cost. Depending on the manufacturer's ability to recreate the image. If it is in digital format is very minimal, in terms of the cost, to produce a design. Other issues that might affect the cost would be the number of colors on a plate which will affect the production costs, and the thousands of possible applicants for these plates, if they replace their plates at time of renewal. The more plates that are produced, the less the cost.

— Repairs to Legions as per the Fire Marshal and Building Inspector Reports. Over the years the Legions have received a clean bill of health every year with minor adjustments that they have had to make in the building. The Legions certainly do want to do what is recommended by way of the Fire and Building Codes, but it seems as though in the last two years, the Fire Marshal and Building Inspector have been presenting the Legions with long lists of what had to be repaired and completed before the Legion licenses are renewed.

The Legions know that they have to bring the building up to code, but would like to have an extension of time to make those repairs, and they would like to be able to keep their licenses so that they can generate revenue in order to complete the repairs to the buildings. So far this request has not be approved.

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4. Correspondence regarding Seniors issues to the Department of Health. (See Appendix & Hansard Transcript, page 10).

5. Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, page 12.

6. Correspondence regarding veterans license plates to Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Affairs. (See Appendix & Hansard Transcript, page 21).

7. Correspondence regarding VLTs in the Legions to Department of Finance. (See Appendix & Hansard Transcript, pages 21-31).

8. Correspondence regarding the motion that a meeting be set up between the Fire Marshal's Office and the Royal Canadian Legion. (See Appendix).

References to, and within, this transcript can be found on the Nova Scotia Government Web Site at:
http //www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/va/va011115.htm

January 31, 2002

WITNESSES

Juno Beach Centre Association
Mr. Douglas Shanks - Associate Director
Ms. Emma Robar - Committee Member
Ms. Anna Green - Committee Member

Background

The Juno Beach Centre Association Committee was originally thought of in 1995, brought about by a couple of gentlemen in Ontario who belonged to an association that brought Holland children to Canada and Canadian children to Holland every year from that time on. The Juno Beach Centre Association was officially formed in 1999 by Second World War Veterans and consists of a Board of Directors, Associate Directors and the Sponsor Directors.

The campaign to fundraise money for the memorial at Juno Beach began officially on January 1, 2000. The contributions of World War Two veterans are to be recognized with plans for a memorial museum in Normandy, France. The Juno Beach Centre will be located on Normandy Beach, over looking the English Channel and will open June 2003.

Funding

The first research done was by the Directors contacting all retail firms in Canada seeking fundraising assistance with the campaign. Most gave donations in terms of $5,000, $10,000, $25,000, $50,000 and $100,000, however after a meeting with the CEO of Wal-Mart Canada a pledge was made by Wal-Mart that in every store, at every cash register across Canada a paper brick in memory of the fallen and those who served in the Second World War will be sold to honor a donation of $1.5 million; and a promise was made that if they fail to raise this amount then Wal-Mart Canada will pledge the $1.5 million regardless.

The Associate Director of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island met with members of the Nova Scotia Government to see what could be done to assist the Association with their campaign. As stated, "Halifax was know as the Garrison City in 1939 and we had more units come out of the Maritimes than the rest of Canada ever heard tell of."[9]

Funding of $1.5 million was promised by Wal-Mart Canada; France has came forward with $1.2 million and the City of Paris has come through with $600,000. Various other units in Europe are pledging monies, but Canada has not pledged any monies thus far.

The Structure

There will be a museum built at the area that is designated to Canada on Normandy Beach called Juno, which is the entrance to Courseulles-sur-Mer, the first city liberated in Europe and it was liberated by Canada.

The memorial brick kiosk will be located on the grounds outside the museum and these kiosks will show the remembrance bricks for provincial commands, municipalities, and private donors who has purchased one will be placed there. Included at the site will be a memorial wall containing veterans bricks. The Legions and Veterans Canada did not want to have veterans bricks placed here and there throughout the site, so they asked if they could have a section in the area for all of their bricks.

An eight foot high bronze memorial sculpture will also be erected and titled, "Remembrance and Renewal".

The Juno Beach Centre will be an educational facility designed for both adults and children. The whole interior is going to be computer-generated by push-buttons in either French or English so every one can have access to the facility. The exhibits are being developed to provide a modern educational and interactive computer-based experience, and the centre will be accessible on a worldwide basis through a Website.

Witness Suggestion

On January 1, 2002, the Association began a new campaign of making available larger bricks for governments. The "Group Memorial Brick" has been of particular interest to municipal governments wishing to honor World War II participants from their local areas. These bricks have also been of interest to regiments, corporations and other local military units and can be purchased for $2,500. The "Provincial Commemorative Memorial Brick" is for the provinces of Canada to be able to purchase for $25,000. To date the Juno Beach Centre Association has $4.6 million on hand or promised, however, the Association is still short by $1.5 million to complete the project and have only until June 6 of 2003 to reach the remainder of their funds. With this in mind the Association is asking the provincial government, through its members, to purchase a "Provincial Commemorative Memorial Brick".

Committee Motion

During the course of this meeting the Standing Committee has unanimously passed a motion stating,

> "The Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs endorses the fund-raising campaign of the Juno Beach Centre Association and urges the provincial government to provide the Association with the $25,000 they require for a provincial brick."[10]

Matters of Discussion

Although there were a number of issues discussed throughout the meeting, outlined below are the key matters that were discussed by the committee.

— Budgeting for Maintenance and Staff. The original budget was for $3.7 million, but $6 million was more realistic because of the cost of the bank of computers in putting the information out that they want, the cost of the Website, etc. As well, the building structure has changed to reflect more square footage than was originally anticipated, and it will have a basement that was not originally put in the plans at the outset.

— Royal Canadian Legions. There are 121 Legions in Canada, including the two in Nunavut. The cost of a brick to the Legions is $250. The Association is endeavoring to reach all Canadian Legions and Affiliates to purchase a brick for their specific area. They are also endeavoring to seek funding from the various branches of the Canadian Armed Forces and amongst others .

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9. Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs Transcript, page 2.

10. Correspondence regarding Juno Beach Centre Association. See appendix

References to, and within, this transcript can be found on the Nova Scotia Government Web Site at:
http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/va/va020131.htm

STATEMENT OF SUBMISSION

All of which is respectfully submitted to the House of Assembly
this 7th day of May, 2002

Mr. William Langille, MLA (Chairman)
(Colchester - North)

I concur

Mr. Cecil O'Donnell, MLA
(Shelburne)

I concur

Mr. David Wilson, MLA
(Glace Bay)

I concur

Dr. Mark Parent, MLA
(Kings North)

I concur

Mr. Brian Boudreau, MLA
(Cape Breton the Lakes)

I concur

Mr. John Chataway, MLA
(Chester - St. Margaret's)

I concur

Mr. John Holm, MLA
(Sackville Cobequid)

I concur

Mr. Frank Chipman, MLA
(Annapolis)

I concur

Mr. Jerry Pye, MLA
(Dartmouth North)

(The original Statement of Submission is signed by all Members of the Committee and is presented in hard copy form.)

Committee Membership

During the 2nd Session of the 58th General Assembly of the House of Assembly, the make-up of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs was comprised of the following members:

Mr. William Langille, MLA (Chairman)
(Colchester North)

Mr. Frank Chipman, MLA
(Annapolis)

Mr. John Chataway, MLA
(Chester St. Margaret's)

Mr. Cecil O'Donnell, MLA
(Shelburne)

Dr. Mark Parent, MLA
(Kings North)

Mr. David Wilson, MLA
(Cape Breton East)

Mr. Wayne Gaudet, MLA
(Clare)

Mr. John Holm, MLA
(Sackville Cobequid)

Mr. Jerry Pye, MLA
(Dartmouth North)

During the Second Session of the Fifty-Eighth General Assembly, Mr. Brian Boudreau, MLA (Cape Breton the Lakes) replaced Mr. Wayne Gaudet, MLA (Clare)

Committee Meetings

The Standing Committee has been meeting on Thursdays since its establishment, and all meetings are open to the public. During the 2nd Session of the 58th General Assembly the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs has met on the following dates.

October 25, 2001
November 10, 2001
November 15, 2001
January 31, 2002

Notices

Notices of committee meetings are sent to all members of the Committee, support staff of the caucus and legislative offices, the House of Assembly Press Gallery, the government wire services and is published on the internet.

Transcripts

Transcripts of the Committee meetings are available from the Legislative Committees Office, 3rd Floor, Dennis Building, 1740 Granville Street, P.O. Box 2630 Station M, Halifax, NS B3J 3N5 or from the Legislature web-site: www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm

Annual/Interim Reports

All reports of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs are compiled by the Legislative Committees Office and forwarded to the Committee Members for consideration. Once the report is finalized it is then distributed to the following:

> The Speaker/Clerk of the House of Assembly; all members of the Legislative Assembly; all presenters who made presentations before the Committee; all Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Libraries across Canada, including the Territories and the media. The report is also available to all persons interested in obtaining a copy from the Legislative Committees Office or through the provincial government web-site.

Acknowledgments

The Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs wishes to extend its gratitude to the following for their time and cooperation:

> The Royal Canadian Legion Nova Scotia / Nunavut Command, Nova Scotia Teachers Union, PanCanadian Energy, Veterans Affairs Canada, and the Juno Beach Centre Association. Special thanks to Mr. Robert Kinsman, Manager of Hansard; Hansard Staff; to Mr. Don Ledger, Co-ordinator of Legislative Television and Broadcasting; Legislative Television Staff; to Mr. Michael Laffin, Co-ordinator, House of Assembly Operations; House of Assembly Staff; and to Margaret Murphy, Legislative Librarian and Librarian Staff.

APPENDICES

NOVA SCOTIA Liberal CAUCUS

News Release

October 25, 2001

Dave Wilson, MLA

Member, Veterans Affairs Committee

For Immediate Release

RESOLUTION FOR ARMED FORCES E-MAIL SUPPORT PASSES

(Halifax, NS) A motion by Liberal MLA Dave Wilson was passed today by the Veteran Affairs Committee to help Nova Scotians send messages to Canadian Armed Forces personnel participating in the Afghanistan efforts.

Wilson, MLA for Glace Bay, proposed a e-mail link be set up on the Nova Scotia government website allowing people to pass on-line messages to those on the three Canadian vessels on their way to the Persian Gulf.

"If Communications Nova Scotia is able to facilitate this request, it will allow people an easy way to show their support for our troops overseas," said Wilson.

Wilson said the Liberal Caucus web site will also be able to accept messages for our Armed Forces personnel by Monday.

—30—

Thank you - post card program

Gordon Balser, BBA, B.Ed., M.Ed.

Objective

To provide students with a personal contact that will assist in their understanding of the role the Veteran played in the preservation of the Democratic Society which they now enjoy.

methodology

A Brief explanation of the project and the purpose of the Card (this may include a speaker from the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion).

Assist the child in identifying a veteran (perhaps a family member or a person known to them from their home community, or the local Legion Branch will assist with names and addresses.

Give each child a Card with a Stamp, and a sticker which displays the logos of our postage sponsors.

Ask them to complete their message.

The child should be reminded to keep it simple, however this is their message.

Address the card.

Collect and mail the Post Cards.

NB: This exercise has no time limit, however considering attention span and motivation level it may be best to limit this activity to 30 minutes.

Tools

Post cards stickers, and stamps that are to be given to each child
Material from Veterans Affairs Canada. This is readily available on the Web Site and via mail: For example:

"These were the most significant six years in Canada's history. Men and women joined the forces to fight for freedom. Millions of others who stayed at home worked tirelessly to help support them and our Allies overseas. Sacrifices were made... challenges overcome...lessons learned. For these efforts overseas and at home, Canada and Canadians became an internationally respected and recognized nation... a reputation which continues to this day. Indeed, much of what we have today is based on the efforts and courage of these Canadians, who laid the foundation during those turbulent years.

1.1 MILLION CANADIANS IN UNIFORM, 700,000 WERE TEENAGERS
1 MILLION CANADIAN WOMEN IN THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORKFORCE
CANADA PRODUCED 850,000 VEHICLES, 16,500 AIRCRAFT, 800 SHIPS

131,500 AVIATORS TRAINED IN CANADA
$7 BILLION LOANED TO THE UNITED KINGDOM BY CANADA

Canadian actions during these pivotal years hold a tremendous significance for today's youth and have an impact on our way of life today. Canadian society was altered and set on a course for permanent change. Canadians developed a distinctly Canadian identity. Women for the first time entered non-traditional jobs in great numbers, planting the seeds of social transformation. Industry replaced agriculture as the backbone of the Canadian economy. And the baby boom began ushering in a population explosion with far reaching implications."
From the Web Site - Veterans Affairs Canada

outcomes

- The child will have a personal investment in the concept of remembrance

The recipient, a veteran will have a personal note of appreciation.

Sponsors

This initiative was produced with the support of:
Veterans Affairs Canada who generously donated the Post Cards
The Royal Canadian Legion who offered to support the classroom teacher
The Nova Scotia School Boards and their Educators
The Nova Scotia Teacher's Union- who assisted with postage costs

Corporate sponsors confirmed to date (September 28/2001)

Pan Canadian Petroleum

Members of the Media,
Fellow Legislators,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today I wish to announce that for the forth year the Nova Scotia Legislature's Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs is sponsoring the Post Cards of Thanks program.

This program, endorsed by the Royal Canadian Legion - Nova Scotia Command, is designed to help grade 6 students in Nova Scotia acquire a personal perspective on the concept of remembrance. Each child is provided with a stamp, a post card, and a sponsor sticker and is encouraged to write their own personal note of appreciation to our veterans. This year a lesson plan was added so that if the educator wished they could encourage their students to send their message to current serving personnel.

We are pleased that this initiative is continuing, but this would not be the case without the generous support of the program sponsors. This year the post cards were again provided by the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs. Our postage sponsors are the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and PanCanadian Energy.

As always the educators and the cooperating School Boards have made this effort very successful. I am told that 18,000 post cards have been distributed and as we speak these unique tributes are being created and mailed to their recipients all over Nova Scotia and the world.

As many of you know the Nova Scotia Legislature is the only provincial legislature in Canada that has a committee mandated to attend to the needs of our veterans.

Generations of gallant and dedicated men and women, have put their lives on hold to defend the principals that we in this democracy hold dear. Today many families in Nova Scotia are again making the sacrifice.

Over half of the personnel in the Canadian Contingent to support the action in Afghanistan is based in Nova Scotia. Now more than ever it is paramount that we recognize the contribution of all those who serve, past and present.

I would like to take this opportunity to make mention of the other members of this House that are part of this vital committee; Mark Parent, John Chataway, Frank Chipman, Cecil O'Donnell, John Holm, Jerry Pye, Dave Wilson and Wayne Gaudet.

Today we have also been joined by representatives of our generous sponsors:

Barbara Childs, Communications and Commemorations Officer from Veterans Affairs Canada;
Brian Forbes, President of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, and
Larry LeBlanc, Vice President of East Coast Operations from PanCanadian Energy.

Further, although they are unable to be with us today, we are honoured that the Royal Canadian Legion, Nova Scotia Command is also participating in this commemorative event.

I would like to thank all of you for coming and I believe that other have a few words to add.

Afterwards, I will make myself available for your questions.

Whereas for the fourth consecutive year, the Nova Scotia Legislature's All Party Standing Committee on Veteran's Affairs has sponsored the Post Card of Thanks Program for grade 6 students provincewide and

Whereas this classroom program endorsed by the Royal Canadian Legion - Nova Scotia Command, provides the educators and their students an opportunity to develop a personal perspective of the concept of service and remembrance and

Whereas this program would not be possible without the sponsorship of PanCanadian Energy, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs Post Cards for Peace initiative

Therefore be it resolved that the Members of this House congratulate their colleagues who are members of the Veterans Affairs Committee for this proactive project and the sponsors for their generous contribution to the education of our children.

Whereas for the fourth consecutive year, the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs has sponsored the Post Card of Thanks Program, which is endorsed by the Royal Canadian Legion - Nova Scotia Command and

Whereas this project gives students the opportunity to express their appreciation for the role that veterans played in the preservation of our freedom in Canada and

Whereas it is fitting to honour the veterans for the sacrifices that they and their families made and to thank them for their contribution to our country

Therefore be it resolved that this House congratulate convey its appreciation to those whose generosity makes this worthwhile initiative possible; Veterans Affairs Canada, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and PanCanadian Energy.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY--Post Cards of Thanks Program

This month, Grade 6 students from across Nova Scotia will have the opportunity to send a personal thank you to a veteran.

The Nova Scotia legislature's all-party standing committee on veterans affairs is sponsoring the Post Card of Thanks program for the fourth year.

During Veterans Week, Nov. 5 to Nov. 11, students will be given a post card and a stamp so they can write to a veteran in their community. The program is endorsed by the Royal Canadian Legion -- Nova Scotia Command.

The cards feature the role Canada's armed forces play in maintaining and promoting peace worldwide. They are provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs and are part of the National Post Cards for Peace Program.

The postage is paid for by this year's corporate sponsors, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and the PanCanadian Energy Corp.

"Programs such as the Post Card of Thanks help children to understand our history and the sacrifices made by veterans," said Larry LeBlanc, vice-president, East Coast Operations for the PanCanadian Energy Corp. "PanCanadian is proud to be a part of this program."

William Langille, chair of the standing committee on veterans affairs, underlines the value of the program.

"This project gives students the opportunity to express their appreciation for the role that veterans played in the preservation of our freedom in Canada," he said.

Nova Scotia is the only province to maintain a standing committee on veterans affairs. Other members of the committee include: Cecil O'Donnell, Mark Parent, John Chataway, Frank Chipman, John Holm, Jerry Pye, Dave Wilson and Wayne Gaudet.

Legislative
Committees Office
House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

3rd Floor, Dennis Building
1740 Granville Street
PO Box 2630, Station M
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3N5

November 29, 2001

Hon. Jamie Muir
Department of Health
4th Floor
Joseph Howe Building
1690 Hollis Street
Halifax, NS

Dear Mr. Minister:

I am forwarding to you a copy of a presentation that was provided to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs from Mr. Victor Barnes of the Royal Canadian Legion, Nova Scotia Command along with a copy of the Hansard of that meeting.

In addition to the documentation, the Standing Committee passed a motion to request that the Minister of Health to respond to the following issues : (See page 10 of the enclosed Hansard)

Falls Prevention Initiative,
Single Entry Access Program,
Adult Day Services,
Rural and Semi-rural Transportation Program,
and Palliative Care Initiatives.

Mr. Barnes makes reference to these issues within his presentation and they are outlined in the Hansard as well.

Please respond to the Standing Committee as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Bill

Mr. Bill Langille, MLA
Chairman
Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs

BL/dh

Encl: 2

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Nova Scotia

Department of Health
Office of the Minister

PO Box 488
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2R8

Bus: 902 424-4310
Fax: 902 424-0559

Our File Number

October 3, 2002

Mr. Bill Langille, MLA
Chairman
Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs
Legislative Committee Office
1740 Granville Street, 3rd. Floor
Halifax, NS B3J 3N5

Dear Mr. Langille:

Thank you for your letter of November 29, 2001. Please accept my apologies for the delay in my response.

As Chair of the Standing Committee, Veteran's Affairs, you are requesting a response to the following issues:

- Falls Prevention Initiative
- Single Entry Access Program
- Adult Day Services
- Rural and semi-rural Transportation Program
- Palliative Care Initiative

As your letter asks no specific questions, I am responding to the issues based on the presentation made to your committee, and attached to your letter.

Falls Prevention Initiative:

My staff informs me that this matter has been addressed with regards to funding for phase two of the Initiative.

Single Entry Access Program :

The presentation to your committee notes that community based services such as Meals on Wheels, Adult Day services and volunteer visiting, are not included in the assessment process for single entry access system and makes recommendation for the inclusion of these services.

Currently there are no plans to do so. Existing community based services are, however, an integral component of our health care system and play a significant supportive role in the province's care delivery system providing needed services to the residents of Nova Scotia.

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.../2

Adult Day Services for Seniors:

As your committee notes this was a platform initiative. Our mandate was also to deliver a balanced budget, which meant reduction in existing programs and services. Consequently, no new programs have been implemented.

Rural and Semi-Rural Transportation:

I was pleased to hear that this initiative has been well received and is helping Nova Scotians in rural communities.

Palliative Care Initiative:

My department has received the proposal to construct a free standing hospice in Kings County. Currently, various proposals for similar programs in the province are under review, and no decision has been made to date on this issue.

Thank you for your interest in these matters. Should your members require further clarification, I would be pleased to do so.

Yours truly,

Jamie Muir
Minister of Health

Legislative Committees Office
House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

3rd Floor, Dennis Building
1740 Granville Street
PO Box 2630, Station M
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3N5

November 29, 2001

Hon. Angus MacIsaac
Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations
Summit Place
1601 Lower Water Street
Halifax, NS

Dear Mr. Minister:

I am forwarding to you a copy of a presentation that was provided to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs from Mr. Steve Wessel of the Royal Canadian Legion, Nova Scotia Command along with a copy of the Hansard of that meeting.

In addition to the documentation, the Standing Committee passed a motion to request that the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations initiate a follow-up with the Royal Canadian Legion, Nova Scotia Command with regard to the Legion's proposal . (See page 21 of the enclosed Hansard)

The background to this motion was based on a proposal by the Royal Canadian Legion to offer Nova Scotia Veterans their own unique licence plate as outlined in Mr. Wessel's presentation.

Discussions on this matter can be found on pages 11 - 21 of the enclosed Hansard.

Please respond to the Standing Committee on the results of this matter as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Bill

Mr. Bill Langille, MLA
Chairman
Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs

BL/dh

Encl: 2

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Service Nova Scotia
and Municipal Relations
Office of the Minister

PO Box 216
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada B3J 2M4

Bus: 902 424-5550
Fax: 902 424-0581

Our File Number:

SEP 06 2002

Mr. Bill Langille, MLA
Chairman, Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs
3rd Floor Dennis Building
1740 Granville Street
PO Box 2630, Station M
Halifax NS B3J 3N5

Dear Mr. ~~Langille~~ Bill :

Further to our meeting yesterday with Department employees and representatives of the Royal Canadian Legion, I would like to confirm the items discussed and the progress made in addressing them.

The Legion has agreed to determine who is eligible for veterans plates in accordance with the definition established by the Legion in their original proposal. Department staff will prepare a draft of an "Application for Veterans Plates" form and submit it to the Legion for their review. This form would be completed by the veteran and approved by the Legion prior to the veteran requesting plates from the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Based on the Legion's authorization, the veterans plates would be issued to the applicant.

The plate design would follow the original proposal received from the Legion. Additional work is needed on the Canadian flag graphic, and Department staff will work with the plate manufacturer and the legion to finalize the design. When the plate design is complete, final pricing for production of the plate will be obtained from the manufacturer.

Veterans plates would normally be issued when the existing vehicle registration expires, although they could also be issued at any time throughout the two year registration period. In either case, a plate replacement fee would be charged to the veteran to cover the cost of the program. Every effort will be made through the plate design process to minimize production expenses and ensure that the plates are available at a reasonable cost.

Department staff will immediately start to work through the implementation issues associated with this program. The initial objective is to have the program details defined and a sample veterans plate ready for a November 1, 2002 announcement. The actual implementation of the plate program would likely be ready for early 2003.

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The Department is pleased to support this very worthwhile initiative, and we look forward to a successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Angus MacIsaac

cc. Deputy Minister Brian Stonehouse
Graham Poole, Executive Director, Service Delivery
Greg Keefe, Executive Director, Program Management
Nancy Cragg-Noddin, Director, Operations Centre

Legislative Committees Office
House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

3rd Floor, Dennis Building
1740 Granville Street
PO Box 2630, Station M
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3N5

November 29, 2001

Hon. Neil LeBlanc
Department of Finance
7th Floor
Provincial Building
Halifax, NS

Dear Mr. Minister:

Enclosed is a copy of the Hansard transcript of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs and the Royal Canadian Legion, Nova Scotia Command.

Among several issues of discussion was, again, the issue of VLT's and the Legions percentages of the profits from these machines.

The Royal Canadian Legion states that, "of the percentage share that the Royal Canadian Legion receives (21.4 %) vs the Provincial Government share (79%), the Royal Canadian Legion pays out a variety of expenses, et. al. out of their share. Therefore in reality they receive only about 10% of the profits from VLT machines."

As well, they would also like to be brought into any discussions concerning VLT's, lotteries, etc. in the future before the issues go public so that they (RCL) could have a chance to make presentations on the matter(s).

Following these discussions, the Standing Committee had passed a motion to "request the Finance Minister to provide the Standing Committee with an explanation of what had been done to date regarding the issue of VLT machines in Legions across this province and that the Committee be brought up to date as to where that stands right now."

Discussion on this matter can be found on pages 21 - 31 of the enclosed Hansard.

Please respond to the Standing Committee on this matter as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Bill

Mr. Bill Langille, MLA
Chairman
Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs

BL/dh

Encl: 1

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Legislative Committees Office
House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

3rd Floor, Dennis Building
1740 Granville Street
PO Box 2630, Station M
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3N5

November 16, 2001

Mr. Robert Cormier
Office of the Fire Marshal
6th Floor
5151 Terminal Road
P.O. Box 697
Halifax, NS

Dear Mr. Cormier:

On Thursday, November 15, 2001 the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs had met with members of the Royal Canadian Legion Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command, who among other issues had brought forth the issue concerning the Building and Fire Marshal's Codes in the Legions across the province (**see attached presentation**).

As a result of this presentation the Standing Committee had passed a motion that "the Fire Marshal meet with the Royal Canadian Legion Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command to discuss the issues therein and forward a response to the Standing Committee of the result of that meeting."

Members of the Royal Canadian Legion may be contacted at:

Mr. Fred Mombourquette, President
The Royal Canadian Legion
Nova Scotia Command
P.O. Box 9075
Station A
Halifax, NS B3K 5M7

Phone: 429-7031
Fax 429-7481

The Hansard transcript of the November 15 meeting will follow when completed.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Bill Langille

Mr. Bill Langille, MLA
Chairman
Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs

BL/dh

Encl. 1

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NOVA SCOTIA Environment and Labour

PO Box 697
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2T8

November 27, 2001

Mr. Fred Mombourquette, President
The Royal Canadian Legion
Nova Scotia Command
P. O. Box 9075, Station A
Halifax, NS
B3K 5M7

Dear Mr. Mombourquette:

I have received a letter from the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs to inform me of concerns expressed by the Royal Canadian Legion Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command. I have been requested to meet with you or your representatives to review the concerns you expressed to the Committee. I have called the number provided to me and left a message requesting the meeting. I have not received a return call at this time. I would welcome an opportunity to meet with you and discuss your concerns related to fire inspections carried out at the legions across the province.

I cannot discuss the issue related to the construction or renovations of buildings as this is a municipal responsibility. It has been my experience that many of the problems occurring in legion buildings are related to work being carried out without a building permit. As with all volunteer groups, individuals with the best interests of the organization in mind make renovations and alterations that are contrary to the building and fire code requirements. Building officials are not permitted to allow a building to be occupied unless it meets the intent of the Nova Scotia Building Code Act. My office is available, without charge, to advise and review construction concepts upon request. You are required by law to submit completed construction plans for approval before the start of construction again at no cost.

I would be pleased to discuss the issue of fire inspections and the time periods provided to the branches to address fire code violations. The Liquor Control Act requires a fire safety inspection before a licence is granted. Many of the legions have a capacity of over 500 persons which increases the level of fire safety and the importance of fire safety features.

...2/

I have reviewed the 103 files that are presently active and I am unable to find a single instance of a request for time to complete not being granted. There are life safety issues that cannot be delayed but there are other solutions. If you are aware of any particular situations, please bring the information to the meeting so that we can discuss the circumstances.

Please contact my office at 424-5721 to set a date and time convenient to you.

Yours truly,

Robert Cormier
Director Public Safety/Fire Marshal

cc: Bill Langille, MLA, Chair, Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM YOU OF ONE OF THE PROBLEMS WE ARE EXPERIENCING IN OUR BRANCHES ACROSS NOVA SCOTIA.

DUE TO THE FACT THAT OUR BRANCHES HOLD BINGO'S AND SERVE MEALS FOR FUNCTIONS, THEY HAVE COME UNDER THE SCRUTINY OF THE OFFICES OF THE PROVINCIAL FIRE MARSHALL AND BUILDING INSPECTORS FOR ANNUAL INSPECTIONS. IN SOME CASES THESE DEPARTMENTS HAVE APPROACHED BRANCHES WITH A VERY LARGE LIST OF REPAIRS THAT THEY STATE WILL BE REQUIRED PRIOR TO A NEW LICENSE BEING ISSUED FOR THE BRANCH TO CONTINUE ITS OPERATION. UNFORTUNATELY, IN SOME CASES, THIS HAS PLACED A VERY LARGE BURDEN ON THE BRANCH AND GAVE REQUIRED SOME TO APPROACH LOCAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO BORROW SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO ACCOMPLISH THE REPAIRS AS DIRECTED BY THE INSPECTOR. IN SOME CASES, THIS HAS RESULTED IN THE BRANCH HAVING TO BORROW ANYWHERE FROM $10,000.00 TO $250,000.00. SOME BRANCHES ARE NOW FEELING THE CRUNCH WITH THIS ADDITIONAL DEBT, AND ARE ON THE VERGE OF BEING FORCED TO CLOSE THEIR DOORS.

IF THE INSPECTOR FROM EITHER DEPARTMENT HAD INFORMED THE BRANCH OF THE NECESSARY CHANGES TO THE BUILDING AND PROVIDED THE BRANCH WITH SUFFICIENT TIME TO COMPLETE THE REQUIRED REPAIRS AS PER THE BUILDING AND FIRE MARSHALL'S CODES, THE BRANCH (S) WOULD NOT BE IN THE POSITION OF HAVING TO CLOSE ITS DOORS. FOR EXAMPLE, WE WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT THE INSPECTOR'S OFFICE PROVIDE THE BRANCH WITH A LIST OF REPAIRS IN ORDER OF PRIORITY OF COMPLETION AND THAT THE BRANCH BE GIVEN SUFFICIENT TIME TO COMPLETE THE REPAIRS ANNUALLY. IT MUST BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY ALL PARTIES, THAT THESE REPAIRS COULD TAKE UP TO FIVE YEARS OR MORE TO COMPLETE, HOWEVER WITH THE INSPECTOR AND THE BRANCH WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER, THE REPAIRS COULD BE COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SAFETY AND SECURITY REGULATIONS IN ORDER OF PRIORITY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT THE FIRE MARSHALL'S AND BUILDING INSPECTOR OFFICES OF THE PROVINCE BE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCHES WITH SUFFICIENT TIME TO COMPLETE THE NECESSARY REPAIRS THAT THEY DISCOVER IN A MANNER THAT WILL PERMIT THE BRANCH TO COMPLETE THE REPAIRS WITHOUT UNDUE FINANCIAL BURDEN

Legislative Committees Office
House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

3rd Floor, Dennis Building
1740 Granville Street
PO Box 2630, Station M
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3N5

March 6, 2002

Hon. John F. Hamm
Premier
Office of the Premier
7th Floor, One Government Place
1700 Granville Street
Halifax, NS

Dear Mr. Premier:

The Juno Beach Centre Association has met with the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs on Thursday, January 31, 2002 to discuss their project of erecting a Canadian War Memorial at the Courseulles-sur-Mer in France and inquired of the government to see what they could do to help them with their campaign.

On January 1, 2002, the Association began a new program of making available larger bricks for governments. The "Group Memorial Brick" has been of particular interest to municipal governments wishing to honour World War II participants from their local areas. These bricks have also been of interest to regiments, corporations and other local military units, and can be purchased for $2,500. The "Provincial Commemorative Memorial Brick" is for the provinces of Canada to be able to purchase for $25,000.

To date the Juno Beach Centre Association has $4.6 million on hand or promised. Wal-Mart is providing $1.5 million; France has promised $1.2 million and $600,000 was promised by the city of Paris. However the Association is still short by $1.5 million to complete the project and have only until June 6 of 2003 which is the date the Juno Beach Centre is scheduled to open.

During the course of this meeting the Committee has unanimously passed a motion stating,

> "The Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs endorses the fundraising campaign of the Juno Beach Centre Association and urges the provincial government to provide the Association with the $25,000 they require for a provincial brick."

Con't Page 2

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Enclosed is a copy of the Hansard Transcript of the meeting and documentation provided by the Juno Beach Centre Association. (See page 19 of the enclosed Hansard transcript)

Please respond to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Bill Langille

Mr. Bill Langille, MLA
Chairman
Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs

Encl. 2

BL/dh

cc: Hon. Neil LeBlanc
Minister of Finance

Legislative Committees Office
House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

3rd Floor, Dennis Building
1740 Granville Street
PO Box 2630, Station M
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3N5

March 6, 2002

Hon. Neil LeBlanc
Minister
Department of Finance
7th Floor, Provincial Bldg.
1723 Hollis Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Minister:

The Juno Beach Centre Association has met with the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs on Thursday, January 31, 2002 to discuss their project of erecting a Canadian War Memorial at the Courseulles-sur-Mer in France and inquired of the government to see what they could do to help them with their campaign.

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Con't Page 2

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Enclosed is a copy of the Hansard Transcript of the meeting and documentation provided by the Juno Beach Centre Association. (See page 19 of the enclosed Hansard transcript)

Please respond to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Bill Langille

Mr. Bill Langille, MLA
Chairman
Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs

Encl. 2

BL/dh

cc: Hon. John F. Hamm
Premier of Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia
Transportation and Public Works
Office of the Minister

PO Box 186
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada B3J 2N2

Our File Number

March 19, 2002

Mr. Bill Langille, MLA
Chairman
Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs
3rd floor, Dennis Building
P.O. Box 2630, Station M
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3N5

Dear Mr. Langille: Bill

Premier Hamm has asked me to respond to your letter of March 6, 2002, regarding the purchase of a "Provincial Commemorative Memorial Brick," for the Canadian War Memorial at the Courseulles-sur-Mer in France.

I brought this to the attention of Treasury & Policy Board, and the Government has agreed to provide the Juno Beach Centre Association with the $25,000 required to purchase a provincial brick.

I will keep you apprised of details when I receive a response from the Association regarding the inscription.

With personal regards,

Ron Russell

Ronald S. Russell, CD
Minister

/td

cc: Premier John F. Hamm

Printed on paper that contains recycled fibre

Legislative Committees Office
3rd Floor, Dennis Bldg.
1740 Granville Street
P.O. Box 2630, Station "M'
Halifax, Nova Scotia
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Telephone: (902) 424-5241 or Toll Free 1-888-388-6489
Fax: (902) 424-0513
Email: legcomm@gov.ns.ca
web-Site: http// www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/COMMITTEES/index.html